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EXTRACT FROM A SERMON

DELIVERED BY

BRIGHAM YOUNG,

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER, 1861.

SUBJECT: The proneness of the Saints to imitate
Gentile fashions.

That man that sells liquor and believes he must, I will promise him damnation for it.

That man that makes liquor and gives it to his neighbor, he shall have his reward in hell. That man that says he cannot live without destroying truth and virtue from the earth—what is he fit for? If hell was all at my disposal I would not give him hell room. I'd annihilate him, and that is what the Lord will do with him.

Give us a little Gentileism, for Heaven's sake, you say. The women say let us wear hoops, because the whores wear them.

[After speaking of their imitation of the Gentiles in their style of hoots and hair cutting, he added:] I believe if they were to come with a cob stuck in behind, you would want to do the same. I despise their damnable fashions, their lying and whoring; and,

God being my helper, I'll live to see every one of those cursed fools off the earth, Saint or sinner. I don't know that I have a wife but what would see me damned rather than that she should not get what she wanted, and that is what I think of all of them and of the men too.

I would see a Gentile farther in hell than they ever got before I would follow their fashions, if it did not suit me. There is not a day I go out but I see the woman's legs, and if the wind blows you see them up to their bodies.

If you must wear their hoops, tie them down with weights, and don't let your petticoats be over your heads. It is ridiculous, and should not be. It belongs to a set of whory congregations that love iniquity and to corrupt themselves one with another. It belongs there. It don't belong in this community.

How do you think I feel about it? Who cares a curse about those infernal Gentiles?

If they were to wear a *shiv'ot* on their head, must I do so?

I know I ought to be ashamed, but when you show your tother end I have a right to talk about tother end. If you keep them hid, I'll be modest and not talk about them.

There are those fornication pantaloons made on purpose for whores to button up in front. My pantaloons button up here [showing how] where they belong, that my secrets, that God has given me, should not be exposed.

You follow the Gentiles and you will be partakers of their plagues if you don't look out. That is the word of the Lord.

Break off from your sins by righteousness. Will you do it? That is the word of the Almighty to you, through his servant Brigham. Keep your secrets secret, and hide your bodies and preserve your bodies.

Now, if a whore comes along and turns up her clothes, don't you turn up yours and go through the streets.

[This sermon, or rather indecent trade, was delivered in the presence of an assembly of at least two or three thousand men, women and children, and was denounced by many even of the Mormons as being outrageous. It was spoken just as written down. Not a word has been altered.]